

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI
EASTERN DIVISION**

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|---------------------------|---|---------------------|
| CHRISTOPHER KING, |) | |
| |) | |
| Movant, |) | |
| |) | |
| v. |) | No. 4:16-CV-942 JCH |
| |) | |
| UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, |) | |
| |) | |
| Respondent. |) | |

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

Before the Court are movant's motion to vacate, set aside or correct sentence pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255 [Doc. #1] and his motion to hold this case in abeyance pending a decision from the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit on movant's petition to file a successive habeas action [Doc. #2].

Specifically, the motion to hold this case in abeyance states that on May 26, 2016, movant filed a petition in the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals asking permission to file a second petition under 28 U.S.C. § 2255(h)(2) and 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(2)(A), in which to raise a claim that relies on *Johnson*, a new rule of constitutional law, made retroactive to cases on collateral review by the Supreme Court. The Eighth Circuit has not yet ruled on this request in *King v. United States*, Case No. 16-2405 (8th Cir. 2016).¹

Under 28 U.S.C. § 2255(h):

A second or successive motion must be certified as provided in section 2244 by a panel of the appropriate court of appeals to contain--

¹In his motion to stay, movant refers to his petition in the Eighth Circuit as pending under No. 15-3222. However, No. 15-3222 was denied by the Eighth Circuit on March 9, 2016. Movant filed a second petition in the Eighth Circuit on May 26, 2016.

(1) newly discovered evidence that, if proven and viewed in light of the evidence as a whole, would be sufficient to establish by clear and convincing evidence that no reasonable factfinder would have found the movant guilty of the offense; or

(2) a new rule of constitutional law, made retroactive to cases on collateral review by the Supreme Court, that was previously unavailable.

When a second or successive habeas petition is filed in a District Court without the authorization of the Court of Appeals, the Court should dismiss it, or, in its discretion and in the interests of justice, transfer the motion to the Court of Appeals. *Boyd v. U.S.*, 304 F.3d 813, 814 (8th Cir. 2002).²

Because movant has already filed an action with the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals as a request to file a second or successive § 2255 motion based on *Johnson*, this Court will not transfer the instant action, but rather, will dismiss it without prejudice to refiling if, and when, movant obtains permission to do so.

Accordingly,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that movant's motion to hold this case in abeyance pending a decision from the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit on movant's petition to file a successive habeas action [Doc. #2] is **DENIED** without prejudice.

² The requirement that prisoners obtain authorization from the Circuit Court before filing a second or successive petition in the District Court is jurisdictional. *Burton v. Stewart*, 127 S. Ct. 793, 796 (2007). "Federal courts are courts of limited jurisdiction. The requirement that jurisdiction be established as a threshold matter springs from the nature and limits of the judicial power of the United States and is inflexible and without exception." *Kessler v. Nat'l Enterprises, Inc.*, 347 F.3d 1076, 1081 (8th Cir. 2003) (quotation marks omitted).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that movant's motion to vacate is **DENIED**, without prejudice, because movant has not yet obtained permission from the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit to bring the motion in this Court. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2255(h).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that no certificate of appealability shall issue.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this Order to the Federal Public Defender.

A separate Order of Dismissal shall accompany this Memorandum and Order.

Dated this 18th day of July, 2016

/s/ Jean C. Hamilton
JEAN C. HAMILTON
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE